



SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*December
1953*

People You Know

Is Tehipite Valley but a potential source of 255,000 kilowatts of power for the city of Los Angeles? The valley is almost entirely surrounded by Kings Canyon National Park, but is not a part of the preserve. If Tehipite were used for power, it would wipe out important scenic and recreational features of Kings Canyon National Park. See *Martin Litton's* article in *National Parks Magazine* for October-December, 1953.

Bestor Robinson has been appointed by the Secretary of the Interior as Chairman of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Conservation. Mr. Robinson, a director of the Sierra Club, has been a member of this committee since it was organized four years ago.

The purpose of the committee is to provide a cross-section of opinions within the nation's

conservation organizations. Although all members of the committee are actively identified with conservation groups, they are appointed as individuals.

The committee meets twice a year for a two-day session. Members confer with chiefs of Interior bureaus. They discuss various questions that members of the committee have requested for the agenda. Finally the committee meets with the Secretary of Interior and gives him its views and recommendations.

Only last month we told you about a new honor for *Alice Eastwood*, the establishment of a grove named for her in *Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park*. Now we must report the death of this distinguished woman who "carried botany out of the realm of the laboratory and the classroom and brought it to the level of the average man." Miss Eastwood died in San Francisco October 30 at the age of 94. She was Curator of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences for half a century, a member of many important scientific societies, and an Honorary Life Member of the Sierra Club.

Early this year it was announced that an *Alice Eastwood Hall of Botany* to house her 375,000 plant specimens would be constructed at a cost of \$250,000, the funds to come from public subscription. About half of this amount has been contributed, and friends who wish to pay tribute to Miss Eastwood may send donations to the building fund for the Hall in care of the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

From a letter by *Elaine Johnson* of Loma Prieta Chapter: "The condition of California's highways is worse than that in any other section of the country, especially around the suburban areas. Why not use this fact in the 'Clean Camps' campaign? Shouldn't we start the cleanup at home before these messy metropolitans get up into the mountains?"

SNOW SCENE. Our cover picture was taken by *Lewis F. Clark* near *Clair Tappaan Lodge* in February. What year? Well, it was a good one. If you're interested in snowfall prospects this winter, read what *Weldon Heald* has to say (page 16). And if you are going ski touring, this year or any year, see *Monty Atwater's* account of an avalanche accident (page 10). (Oh, yes—*Lewis* snapped this scene in 1937.)

THE SIERRA CLUB,* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast. Since these resources receive best protection from those who know them well, the club has long conducted educational activities to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 38

DECEMBER, 1953

NUMBER 10

... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE ...

Conservation Outpost: 83rd Congress

Even though the First Session of the 83rd Congress ended with considerable pyrotechnics on August 4, we have waited to report on this delayed Fourth of July celebration until just before the Second Session opens, so that the issues will be freshly in mind as the show goes on again.

One of the most important unfinished

Grazing

issues before the session was that of the Stockmen's Bills, H.R. 4023 and S. 1491. By now everyone is familiar with how the Stockmen's Grazing Committee worked to put over legislation which would have so weakened the Forest Service administrative control of grazing lands in national forests that livestock interests would virtually own the land and grazing privileges.

Public opinion was so forcefully against these measures that they were finally withdrawn by the House and Senate Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Although H.R. 4023 and S. 1491 could still be revived, this is unlikely because substitute measures, H.R. 6787 (Clifford Hope) and S. 2548 (George Aiken) were introduced in the last few days of the session and immediately approved by Secretary of Agriculture Benson. These new measures remove most of the objections that conservationists had to the previous bills. Although the measures still provide for judicial review of administrative decisions—a special consideration to a single class of users on multiple-use property—the review procedure appears to have been carefully drawn up to prevent its abuse. Two important safeguards are: the act does

not restrict the authority of the Secretary to limit or discontinue the grazing use of any lands in order to prevent injury to the range, or to change the use of any lands; decisions of the Secretary remain in force until reversed as the result of a formal hearing or an appeal to the courts.

These new bills are being studied to determine whether conservationists should continue opposition. With so many previous objections removed and with the Department of Agriculture's having formally approved the new measures, it will be difficult to continue to oppose this legislation unless very strong arguments against it are produced.

Late in July a few members of the House of Representatives, with some fast footwork,

Timber

tried to pull a touchdown play with a bill introduced earlier in the year. This measure, H.R. 4646, introduced by Harris Ellsworth of Oregon, would provide that owners of private timberland may be compensated in cash or by exchange for federal land when their land must be acquired by the United States for public uses (i.e., reservoir sites). The original measure specifically provided that such exchange shall not include land within the boundaries of national parks, national monuments, wilderness areas, or wildlife refuges.

At an unannounced and brief hearing late in July, the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs amended the bill to strike out the clause protecting national parks, etc., and sent the bill to the House for quick passage. Vigorous protest by many conservation

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organizations, including the Sierra Club, resulted in Mr. Ellsworth's withdrawing the bill from further consideration until the Second Session. During the recess, the measure is being amended "so that it will not be objectionable to conservation groups."

To be acceptable to conservationists, the measure not only must exclude from exchange national parks, etc., but it must give the Forest Service the right to participate in the selection of national forest lands involved in an exchange and final approval of lands so selected. The original bill would have permitted the Corps of Engineers or Bureau of Reclamation, acting for a private timberland owner whose lands they were going to acquire, to select national forest lands for exchange without Forest Service approval.

One item of business completed in the First Session may prove to be among the most forward-looking steps taken in some time. For many years

Water

conservationists have felt that soil conservation and flood *prevention* should begin on the hilltops and not in the valleys. We believe that building dams on all our rivers is an incomplete means of conserving our water resource and that more emphasis should be given to watershed protection to prevent floods than is given to flood *control* dams, which only attempt to contain excessive runoff from the denuded lands above.

In recognition of this concept, the 83rd Congress included in the Department of Agriculture appropriation an item (not previously included in the budget) of \$5,000,000 for a nationwide program of small watershed development for flood prevention. About fifty small watersheds, for which plans have already been drawn up by the Soil Conservation Service, will be given the complete treatment for soil conservation, runoff control and flood water detention on the small tributaries. This is a pilot plant operation to show the nation how complete conservation programs on the uplands and in headwaters can pay dividends by saving our topsoil and accomplishing flood control.

After extensive hearings last spring on the Baker Bill, H.R. 1972, we were hopeful

that it would be reported from the House Committee on Agriculture for consideration by the full House. Passage of this measure would have provided that a portion of national forest receipts be returned to the Forest Service for improving and expanding campgrounds and for maintaining other recreational use facilities in our national forests.

It was disappointing that no further action was taken on this measure but our efforts were not entirely unrewarded. Legislation similar to the Baker bill has been introduced several times in the last few years and each time has attracted greater attention and support. This year so many Congressmen were convinced of the need for additional funds that increases, previously denied in Forest Service appropriations, were made for trail repair and campground rehabilitation and maintenance.

The increased appropriations were not so overwhelming as to leave the Forest Service undecided as to where to spend all the money. In the California Region, for instance, some of the money will be used to rehabilitate and expand the Bass Lake Campground, southwest of Yosemite, which was closed by the U.S. Public Health Service in the summer of 1951 because sanitary facilities were completely inadequate to provide for the swarms of campers who descended upon the campground each week end.

There has been a great deal of activity centering around the various mining bills introduced

Mining

into Congress. Senator Clinton Anderson initially introduced S. 783, which probably would have curbed completely the filing of false and fraudulent mining claims but might have imposed hardship on legitimate mining because of a provision for very accurate location of mining claims. It is generally conceded that S. 783 will not be considered because of its stringency.

At the other end of the line is H.R. 4983, introduced by Representative Wesley D'Ewart, which would only partially correct mining abuses. This measure, which had the backing of the American Mining Congress, was pushed through the House Committee

the House consideration of this measure. The calendar of the House for immediate consideration. Several Congressmen objected so it was stricken from the calendar.

In the meantime, the Hope Mining Bill, H.R. 5358, was given a hearing by the House Committee on Agriculture, and sent on with a do-pass recommendation. The Hope Bill fully recognizes the problem of false and fraudulent mining claims and sets up adequate regulations to eliminate this abuse without apparently imposing unwarranted restrictions on legitimate mining activity.

A dispute has now arisen between the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and the Agriculture Committee as to which has jurisdiction over mining law amendments. It is being settled by appointing a joint committee to work out a new bill.

Sierra Club members should take an active interest in this mining legislation, as passage of either S. 783 or H.R. 5358 would be extremely helpful in reducing the number of spurious claims now filed in dedicated wilderness areas. Neither of these measures is a defense against legitimate mining claims in wilderness areas (it will take additional legislation to accomplish that) but either would curb the filing of false or fraudulent claims, and invalidate the inactive ones.

There are a number of other measures we have discussed from time to time which are still "alive" but upon which no action seems likely. Two of these are the Johnson bills, H.R. 1038, to prohibit dams in national parks, and H.R. 1037, to give national park status to Dinosaur National Monument. These measures have no chance for consideration as long as the fate of Dinosaur is in doubt. Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay is scheduled to make a recommendation soon on the development of the Upper Colorado River Basin. This over-all decision, which may have been announced before you read this *Bulletin*, will include a recommendation on the Echo Park and Split Mountain dams in Dinosaur. A recommendation to abandon these dam sites for others outside the Monument would open the way for favorable action on both Johnson bills.

JOHN R. BARNARD,



Trojan Territory

Peak 13,968, just east of the Sierra Crest and a mile southeast of Mount Tyndall, officially became Trojan Peak on August 2, 1951, when the name was approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Two alumni of the University of Southern California, Ralph Arthur Chase (Law '06) and Chester Versteeg (Law '16), had first proposed the name, to honor their alma mater, in 1936.

A "dedication" party climbed the peak on August 21, 1951, and at a subsequent campus luncheon an informal "Trojan Peak Club" was organized to sponsor annual climbs. It was also decided to propose the name "Lake Helen of Troy" for the large body of water at the northwest base of the peak, elevation 12,600. The photograph above, taken from Mount Williamson by J. R. Haller, shows two-thirds of "Lake Helen of Troy," with Trojan Peak rising from lower left—its summit out of sight. At center is the Sierra Crest and beyond, the Kern Basin and the Kaweahs.

Directors' Meeting, October 17

Should the Club Stop Growing?

Internal affairs and club policy occupied the directors of the Sierra Club during a good half of their meeting on Saturday, October 17, in Los Angeles. This does not mean that conservation problems were not considered; in the afternoon President Leonard gave the Board and the many guests an extensive review of current conservation problems facing the club.

All the directors were present, as well as Executive Director David Brower, Conservation Chairman John Barnard, and Honorary Vice-Presidents Phil Bernays, Francis Farquhar and Randall Henderson. Eight of the ten chapters were represented, and there were four guests from the U.S. Forest Service as well as about 100 other visitors.

Among the most important questions in the club's internal affairs was that of how big the Sierra Club should be. This question included the following parts: Should our conservation scope have national, regional or state limits? Should our roster of chapters be limited to the state of California? (Was the formation of an Atlantic Chapter a good move, and should we go further?)

How Far, How Big

Should our activities have a border, too? (Our out-of-state outings attract many members.) How many chapters should we have, and where? Can we develop effective groups in local or regional chapters for non-Californians? If we permit out-of-state chapters, can we make it clear that we do so to support the conservation efforts of other existing organizations and not to compete with them? Should we set a ceiling on membership?

A long discussion followed the statement of these questions. Basically, as the president pointed out, we want to strengthen the fight for conservation objectives to which we are devoted, through any organizations that work effectively. We should continue the policy of furnishing leadership

without trying to take credit. It was agreed that: *No arbitrary geographic limitations shall be placed on the organization of chapters of the Sierra Club with respect to location.*

Along the same line was the question whether encouragement should be given to our many members residing in the Pacific Northwest to form a chapter there. Although there appeared to be strong opinions on both sides, a motion was passed, with one vote against: *The Sierra Club has no policy objection to the formation of a chapter in the Pacific Northwest.*

The president briefly reviewed current conservation problems: San Jacinto tramway, Olympic National Park boundaries, Dinosaur National Monument, and the grazing and mining questions. Decision on San Jacinto tramway is temporarily blocked as mining claims on critical sections are still in dispute. Pressure groups continue to try to change the boundaries of Olympic National Park, although the Secretary of Interior has stated he considers the matter closed. You will read about Dinosaur in next month's *Bulletin*. Congress rejected a number of grazing bills sponsored by special grazing interests; however, the efforts for such legislation may be expected to continue. The old mining laws, originally made to protect mining exploration and activity, are being much abused through attempts to capitalize on nonmining uses. Legislative efforts to meet this situation are far from a satisfactory answer.

Forest Service primitive areas, such as Yolla Bolly in Trinity National Forest, Desolation Valley in Eldorado, and the Hoover Wild Area in Inyo-Toiyabe, were discussed, each with its individual problems. Explanations of each case by representatives of the Service were very helpful.

The proposed White Mountain Natural Area, east of Bishop, at 9,900 to 11,400 feet elevation, was described in detail. A natural

area differs from other designated National Forest areas in that it is to be administered exclusively to preserve the original natural environment. No use is permitted that would remove or disturb the natural features or habitat. This proposed area comprises a forest of 2,300 acres of bristlecone pine, which scientists believe is a vestigial remnant of vast ancient forests of the Quarternary period. The forest warrants further study and protection. It is expected that approval for setting it aside will be given by the Chief of the Forest Service.

Longest discussion of the afternoon session concerned multiple recreation use of state land. How can the need for space in

Hunting in State Parks

California be reconciled with the increasing population pressures? There inevitably arose the question of hunting in state parks, present or future. This question, involving the problem of surplus game, cannot be answered quickly or easily. The directors sought an answer, being mindful of the relationship between state park policy and national park policy. The feeling was that we should try to find ways of increasing friendly coöperation with hunters; they are for the most part conservation-minded, even though many of them may not be fully aware of all conservation principles. Finally a motion was carried that *the Sierra Club supports the policy of encouraging State agencies to consider setting up new types of land classification to permit coördination of land usage for both hunting and nonhunting recreation.*

Other items on the agenda were considered, and although not all of them could be fully settled, the meeting was stimulating and productive. For members who wish to read the complete minutes, copies are available at the club office in San Francisco and at each chapter headquarters.

The next meeting of the Board is to be in the San Francisco headquarters on December 12, 1953.

LEWIS F. CLARK,
Secretary

Intangibles...

... My special target is the defeatist attitude of some of those concerned in conservation who become faced with the issue of tangible versus intangible values...

The lumberman can give you a dollar value for a forest by measuring the board feet of the stand; the dam builder can calculate the value of every cubic measurement of water in the stream gurgling over a pebbled riffle; and the farmer can give a pretty good estimate of the bushel yield on the back corner which supports a covey of birds. But then we are apt to stutter a bit to calculate the value of the ethereal—although we may allow ourselves to get boxed in trying to estimate the value per pound of a game bird or big game or fish...

Last year over thirty-one million adult hunting and fishing licenses were sold in this country—that is, one in each five of this nation's population went to the effort to buy and pay for a "ticket" to go afield...

The tangible would be a bag or creel full of legal limit. The intangible is the smell of the woods, the crispness of autumn, the color and the freedom all become one and part of nature, returning to the fundamentals of our existence. This one should not try to calculate in dollars, even if he could...

So, thirty-one million Americans buy licenses to hunt and fish... Over forty-one million Americans visited the national parks and monuments of this country last year, an all-time record and more than double ten years ago. Over thirty million visited the national forests last year. We cannot even begin to count those who visited state parks, picnic areas along roadsides, or merely went for a walk afield or into the woods.

This question of tangibles versus intangibles is relative. There is a place for both. We need resources to continue our existence and to build and grow. But we also need the intangibles protected and retained in perspective to give us a reason to work and to build and to grow.

—MICHAEL HUDOBA, Washington correspondent for *Sports Afield*, in an article in the *Remington Newsletter*.

Snow on the Ground at Norden

Your Own Winter Sports Center

There's magic in the words—winter snow! At 7,000 feet the plows will have banked it high along the road. At 8,000 and 9,000 feet the branches will have begun to bend under its weight, and the slopes will be deep with it, the huts half buried. Visitors from the lowlands will enjoy it in their various ways, then defrost equally variously. If they're novices they'll take instruction—and a few spills. If they're downhill speeders, they'll swoop and swerve. If they're ski tourers, they'll shoulder packs and climb to splendid isolation. In any case, if they're Sierrans or guests, they'll have a warm and friendly welcome at Norden.

GLAMOROUS PLACE NAMES in skiing are associated with the Donner-Reno area: Sugar Bowl, Squaw Valley, Slide Mountain, Mount Rose, Soda Springs, Ski Ranch. At the hub of these winter sports centers is the Sierra Club's own Clair Tappaan Lodge, which has continued to grow over the years to meet the increasing demands of more and more skiing members.

Here, in what is fast becoming the largest ski center in the United States, is your opportunity to have the very best in winter fun—at the most reasonable rates anywhere. Clair Tappaan Lodge is devoted to the enjoyment of club members and their guests.



Large and spacious, the lodge has accommodations for 150. It has a high-beamed lodge room and cheery fireplace; two men's and two women's dormitories; 16 cubicles for families; an adequate dining room; an amply supplied kitchen and commissary; and a drying room for damp clothing.

A permanent staff assures smooth functioning of the lodge. Rudy Talso is resident manager. He's assisted by Lotte Martens, who will exercise her culinary talents in the kitchen, and Jim Nichlos, one of our most enthusiastic and capable skiers, as ski instructor.

Clair Tappaan Lodge is just off U.S. 40, a little more than a mile west of the summit of Donner Pass. Elevation is 7,000 feet. Situated on the north side of the highway, the lodge is "just around the bend after the Norden Store."

Most transportation is by private cars, and "rides registers" are maintained both in the Sierra Club office in San Francisco and at the Jim Davis Sport Shop in Berkeley, where drivers and riders may apply and register.

Starting with the second week end in January, 1954, the lodge will sponsor a chartered bus each week end, continuing as long as patronage warrants. The bus will leave San Francisco each Friday at 6:15 p.m. (Berkeley, 7 p.m.), and will return Sunday evenings after dinner, thereby providing its patrons a full week end. Reservations may be made through the Sierra Club Reservations Office at the same time that lodge reservations are arranged. The fare will be \$5.50 for the round trip.

Public transportation is available through Greyhound buses or by Southern Pacific trains to Norden Station. The station is a ten-minute walk from the lodge.

Activities

"Skiing Signal" will be even more fun than in previous seasons because of the completion of a considerable improvement on our own ski slope at Signal Hill during the summer. Re-

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SIERRA CLUB

What You'll Pay to Stay at the Lodge

Reservation (each unit a night's lodging or a meal)		Member	Guest
5 units (minimum reservation)		\$ 6.00	\$ 7.25
6 units		7.00	8.50
7 units		7.50	9.25
8 units (full week end—Friday night through Sunday dinner)		8.00	10.00
Additional consecutive units, each		1.00	1.25
28 units (one week)		25.00	30.00
20 units (five days, midweek only)		18.00	22.00

The above rates apply to consecutive and continuous units only. Modified rates apply otherwise. A charge of \$3.00 for food will apply when taken from the lodge for use at the huts; no other charges apply for use of huts. (Note: Lodge reservations cover the foregoing charge.)

Nonreservation (intermittent services at lodge for interrupted stays)		Member	Guest
Breakfast		\$1.20	\$1.50
Lunch		1.00	1.25
Dinner		1.20	1.50
Week-night lodging		1.20	1.50
Friday night lodging		1.50	2.00
Saturday night lodging		2.00	2.50

rating the rope tow has greatly expanded the ski terrain and made available several interesting ski trails. The popularity of Signal will be further encouraged by the fact that ski instruction will again be given by the Klein Ski School, with Jim Nichlos making experts out of tyros.

The popular ski tour program will be resumed and will include many scheduled tours to Peter Grubb Hut and Benson Cabin, for overnight stays. Other, less strenuous day tours are contemplated.

To add to the enjoyment of all, there are the activities surrounding Rudy's dog team; traditional Saturday night folk dancing; special ski events like the torch parade down Pump House Hill on New Year's Eve; snowshoeing, which has recently become popular; and the feasts and races that are traditional.

Coöperative Duties

The lodge is operated on a nonprofit, coöperative basis by the Sierra Club for its members and their guests, and everyone is required to assist in housekeeping chores in equal shares. Duties are assigned by choice from a worksheet and take only a few minutes a day.

Reservations

Reservations are made at the Sierra Club office at 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

Full remittance must accompany requests for reservations and must be made not later than the Thursday preceding the week end desired. If you make a reservation and cancel it after the beginning of the preceding week, you must pay a penalty fee which increases progressively.

For the holiday week end of Washington's Birthday, the cost for the three days (minimum) will be \$12.00. Reservations for this one week end can be made at any time on a first-come, first-served basis. All other reservations are limited to requests not more than 30 days prior to the desired period.

What to Bring

Bunks are provided with mattresses and covers. You must provide your own sleeping bag or blankets.

When planning your stay at the lodge, you should limit your luggage to a reasonable size and weight which you can handle easily. You will have the problem on arrival of transporting it from the highway to the lodge, about 250 feet up a snow trail. All you will need are skis, poles, clothing, sleeping bag or blankets, and toilet articles.

If you will arrive late at night, bring a flashlight to locate your bunk, sign the register when you arrive—and be prepared for one of the best ski week ends you have ever experienced.

The Source Lake Avalanche

By Montgomery M. Atwater
Avalanche Forecaster, U.S. Forest Service

AT SOURCE LAKE, near Snoqualmie Pass, Washington, an avalanche accident occurred last February. Of the three high-school-age skiers involved, one was killed, one was rescued alive and one escaped.

This affair made the national headlines. In at least one instance the reporting was so inaccurate and misleading that the following report has been prepared for the benefit of skiers everywhere. The account I refer to was in the February 23 issue of *Time*. It began by picturing the three boys as experienced ski mountaineers, who used good mountaineering technique throughout. The implication, probably not intended by *Time*, being that any ski touring party can expect more or less the same fate.

The facts are quite otherwise. These boys had some summer mountaineering experience, practically none in winter. Though one of them was a junior member of the Mountaineers, none had taken any of the mountaineer training offered by that organization. From the start of their trip to the moment of a disaster that should never have happened, they violated one rule of safe ski mountaineering after another.

Two Rules Violated

Early on a Saturday morning they left Seattle, their objective an overnight trip to

a cabin several miles northwest of the Snoqualmie Pass ski area. Presumably their parents knew something about their plans. But they did not report to anyone at Snoqualmie Pass: Where they were going, by what route, and when they expected to return. Although the weather was stormy they made no attempt to find out about avalanche conditions.

So, before they had even put on their skis, they had violated two of the rules of safe mountaineering: tell someone in authority about your trip; check avalanche conditions before you start. A trained Forest Service avalanche observer is stationed at Snoqualmie Pass. He could have told the boys that snow conditions were very threatening indeed, an inch of rain on eighteen inches of new snow.

The boys skied four miles up a canyon to Source Lake. On the way they crossed the tracks of avalanches already lying in their path. Once, in the distance, they heard a rumbling which they took to be the sound of an avalanche. Experienced ski mountaineers, at this point, would have turned back unless they knew it was possible to reach their objective over a slide-proof route. A third rule of safe ski mountaineering is to be alert for indications of danger along the way.

They Chose Open Slope

At Source Lake the boys had to climb out of the canyon over a headwall in order to reach the cabin where they planned to spend the night. Here they had two choices. They could have made the climb in timber, which is harder going but relatively safe from avalanches. Or they could have taken the easier going up an open slope, cut by a gully and overhung by cliffs, an avalanche path any experienced ski mountaineer would recog-

This is a photo-map of Source Lake avalanche accident area. Skiers' objective was a cabin in basin north of avalanche path. A protected route lies to right. Timber in slide, scrubby and small, was snow-covered.



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nize even if he had never seen the country before. The boys chose the open slope. Note this: The slope itself was not dangerous. Disaster perched on the high-angle cliffs and couloirs above.

Another rule of safe ski mountaineering is that when traversing hazardous terrain, only one member of the party at a time will be exposed. Since they didn't recognize the hazard, the boys couldn't very well obey the rule, even if they knew it. When the avalanche plunged over the cliffs, all three were in its path. One of the boys was considerably farther downhill than the others, having stopped to adjust his bindings. His two companions were buried but he was able to escape. Thus, purely by accident, there was a survivor to go for help.

Causes of Disaster

To sum up this part of the report, the disaster was plainly caused by failure to observe the rules of mountaineering: tell someone where you are going; check snow and weather conditions before you start; heed the warnings you observe along the way; choose routes protected from avalanches; in questionable terrain, expose only one member of the party at a time.

When the slide stopped, one of the buried skiers was still conscious. Of him *Time* stated: "Wise in the survival rules of mountaineering, he moved not a muscle for fear of re-starting the slide." This is worse than nonsense. It is misinformation that could easily cost some other skier his life. The chances of re-starting an avalanche which has run its course are practically nil. The chances of being reburied by a second avalanche running in the same path, or of dying of suffocation, cold and shock are very good. As every competent ski mountaineer knows, a person caught in a slide should dig himself out if he can and get away from there.

Time's statement was challenged by a number of well-known ski mountaineers. Eventually, to my knowledge, the editors retracted in private. They have not seen fit to do so in public, the principal reason for rehashing this tragic affair.

The accident happened about 1 p.m. It took the survivor four hours to return to



Sketch map shows route of skiers and their position when the avalanche occurred.

Snoqualmie Pass. He reported the accident to a state highway patrolman. The patrolman relayed the report to Ross Files, Forest Service snow ranger, a trained avalanche rescue leader. Fifteen minutes later the first rescue party was on the trail with the survivor as guide.

There's a sidelight here worth mentioning. Spectators in the lodge where the first party was organizing were indignant because the exhausted, half-hysterical boy was required to return to the scene of the accident. The eyewitness *always* goes back, unless he's a stretcher case. How else can rescuers locate the victims in time to get them out alive?

It took the first party another four hours to reach the avalanche. The duties of a first party in avalanche rescue are to locate and mark as accurately as possible the point where the victims were last seen on the surface and to begin the hasty search. Having left instructions about reinforcements and notified disaster authorities in Seattle, Files caught up with the first party in time to direct the hasty search. This consists of a survey of the avalanche below the last-seen point looking for pieces of equipment or any other clues to the location of the victims.

Almost at once, the ranger found a broken ski and called to his companions. To his amazement, he got an answer almost from under his feet. Still conscious, presumably still "lying motionless for fear of re-starting the avalanche," one of the boys had seen the ranger's headlamp shining on the snow and heard his voice. He was rescued after about eight hours' burial.

In darkness and storm the search continued for his companion. At 2 a.m. Files took stock of his situation. He had two casualties on his hands, the boy dug out of the avalanche and the eyewitness. After three trips through the canyon, the latter was in the final stages of exhaustion. The rescuers were in little better condition. Bad weather and lack of proper equipment had choked off the stream of reinforcements.

It was now thirteen hours since the accident. Files realized that if he continued the search under the conditions he would be risking the safety of many in the now forlorn hope of rescuing one. He made the painful decision to withdraw to the protection of timber and set up a temporary camp.

At 7 a.m. the search was resumed. In daylight, the tip of another ski was found, concealed by a snow boulder. The ski was still fastened to the boot of the second victim. According to the coroner's report, he had died of a broken neck.

In recognition of their key parts in the operation, the following men received the National Ski Patrol's Purple Star, emblematic of a life saved: Ross Files, Lee Stark, Ted Welander, Chuck Edwards, Bob Piper.

To conclude, it would be unfair to let the blame for this accident rest on the hazards of ski mountaineering. It would be just as sensible to condemn auto transportation because a car is powerful enough, if mishandled, to kill someone. And if you are ever so unfortunate as to get caught in an avalanche, and if you are conscious and able to move when the thing stops, by all the gods of the mountain, don't lie still for fear of re-starting it. Hightail it out of there.

(This account of the Source Lake avalanche accident, February 7, 1953, has been compiled from official reports.)

Bulletin Board

PETER GRUBB HUT. Mr. and Mrs. D. Hanson Grubb, patron members and donors of the Peter Grubb Ski Hut, have as usual come to the club's aid. Reconstruction necessary on the Hut after the heavy winter of 1951-52 was completed last fall by volunteer workers, and the entire cost of the materials, transportation and commissary for the workers was covered by a generous check from the Grubbs.

FOREST ARSONIST. Federal Judge Dal M. Lemmon recently gave an arsonist the maximum sentence—six months in jail and \$500 in fines—for setting a fire in Shasta National Forest. Judge Lemmon said he thought the crime deserved a stiffer penalty. It cost the government more than \$30,000 to put out the fire, the *Sacramento Union* reported.

TOOLS FOR TEACHERS. "Free and Inexpensive Materials for Conservation Education" is the title of a 15-page bibliography which can be secured from the national Association of Biology Teachers for ten cents. The list was prepared as part of a three-year conservation project being sponsored by the Association. Copies are available from Dr. Richard L. Weaver, P. O. Box 2073, Ann Arbor, Mich.

BOOK COLLECTION. Clinton C. Clarke, long-time member and earnest worker for the concept of the Pacific Crest Trail, has recently given a fine collection of books, many of them rare, for the use of the Sierra Club.

NO LITTERBUG, LINDBERGH. "One sandwich is enough. I brush the crumbs off my lap. I start to throw the wrapping through the window—no, these fields are so clean and fresh it's a shame to scatter them with paper. I crunch it up and stuff it back in the brown bag. I don't want the litter from a sandwich to symbolize my first contact with France."—CHARLES A. LINDBERGH, in *The Spirit of St. Louis* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1953).

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Retaw, Retaw Everywhere

THE INNOCENT PUBLICATION of a small item concerning dehydrated water (SCB, September 1953) has opened the flood gates, as it were, to what could be a spate of controversy among partisans of various proprietary claims. R. Moron, who writes from the Dudleya Herbarium, where he uses the product to dry succulents for shipment, has been deluged through these columns by others who pretend to have invented this useful product. Naturally, the Texans claim it for their own—even the name—and say that with their experience of drought they are able to get a drier derivative.

Hard Rock Shorty of Death Valley, in collaboration with a Doctor Doolittle of Dusty River, advances what he considers a prior claim, since their product "HYDRY" was described in *Desert Magazine* in January, 1953. They, however, appear not to have carried the project to its final stage: rehydration, or as the Texans say, undehydration. Lem Garrison, a Texan friend of Shorty, alleges that he has recently invented a secret ingredient to mix with HYDRY to restore its natural bulk.

It is of course realized that there are lost arts as well as those which are only temporarily mislaid. This conclusion was reached by the writer when he was doing research on the same problem years ago. Veiled allusions to the existence of dry water appear in literature through the ages, although not in scientific journals. It is as though a censorship similar to certain present restrictions has been imposed on the publication of specific items of scientific inquiry, and the literary references were subtle attempts to air the matter publicly.

A FAIRLY RECENT example was turned up not long ago when a scholar found a notebook used by Coleridge. An early draft of "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" contains the crossed-out quatrain:

"Retaw, retaw everywhere
And all the boards did shrink;
Retaw (water turned around),
Nor any drop to drink."

This was suppressed in the published version, but the implication remains.

Going further back, Chaucer (c. 1340-1400) wrote as follows on the same subject in "The Knightes Tale":

"The busy larke, messenger of daye.
Salueth in hire song the morwe graye;
And fyry Phebus ryseth up so bright,
That al the orient laugheth of the lighte,
And with his stremes dryeth in the greves.
The silver dropes, hongyng on the leeves."

Apparently a very simple type of solar dehydrator was used at the time, the secret of which has been lost and may some day be rediscovered.

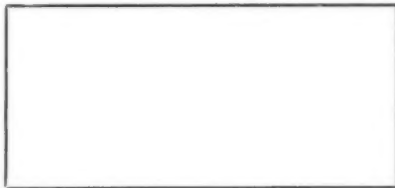
On exploring earlier references, even at the time of Lucretius (96?-55 B.C.) we find both dehydration and undehydration mentioned in Book IV of "De Rerum Natura" (Bailey's translation):

"One . . . begins to squeeze with the hand and dry a sponge full of water.

"Likewise, moisture spreads into all the spots which demand moisture; and the many gathered bodies of [dryness] . . . are scattered by the incoming moisture, and quenched like a flame . . . Thus then the panting thirst is washed away . . . , thus the hungry yearning is satisfied."

THIS IS NOT THE LAST (or first) word by any means. It has recently been advanced as a hypothesis that the Deluge was caused by rehydration of a stockpile of dehydrated water. Noah must have had a controlling interest in the process and built the Ark just in case something went wrong, as it apparently did. It seems to have done so ever since.

JOHN P. SCHAGEN



Specimen of completely dehydrated water

Recreational Values Win Out

Power Commission Rules Wisely

[The following proceeding on an application to the Federal Power Commission is reprinted in part from the report of July 29, 1953, to publicize what we believe to be a far-sighted and commendable decision by the Commission.]

This is a proceeding on an application filed November 19, 1951, by Namekagon Hydro Company of Frederic, Wisconsin, for a license to operate and maintain a proposed hydroelectric project on the Namekagon River, to be located about 12 miles upstream from the point at which it empties into the St. Croix River . . .

The proposed project would provide the most economical source of power available for distribution in the service areas of Applicant's two affiliated companies . . .

The Namekagon River is located in one of

the principal recreational areas of the Nation . . . In its lower section, including the area of the proposed project, the Namekagon River is scenic as well as unique with respect to its safety for canoeing. For this reason the river is used extensively for canoe floating trips by various children's organizations . . . Furthermore, small-mouth bass fishing is one of the principal past and present resources of the Namekagon River . . .

The Wisconsin Conservation Commission has listed the Namekagon as being one of its few remaining undeveloped rivers with a recommendation that it be preserved in its present relatively natural state.

The State of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Division of the Izaak Walton League of America contend that the unique recreational values of the river should cause us to deny a license pursuant to Section 10(a) . . . In the circumstances of this case, we think there is merit to that contention.

Recreational values are given consideration in every license application before the Commission. However, the Commission realizes that in many cases where unique and most special types of recreation are encountered a dollar evaluation is inadequate as the public interest must be considered and it can not be evaluated adequately only in dollars and cents. Unique and most special types of recreation have been preserved in the public interest at the cost of loss of power which is definitely ascertainable in monetary value. An example of such action is in connection with an application for license *In the Matter of Southern California Edison Company*, 8 FPC 364 . . .

We imposed a condition in the license is-

WHO DOES THIS?

Jim Barbour of San Francisco sent us the picture, at left, which he took this year in Mt. Rainier National Park. The notice may not have been very important, Jim says, "but the fact remains that some moron broke the glass, which litters the foreground, and destroyed the message."



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used to the Southern California Edison Company requiring a minimum release of a specified amount of water in order to protect the recreational values of the Kern River in the Sequoia National Forest. In that case the company estimated that the condition would result in a power loss of approximately \$1,000,000 during the period of the license.

It can readily be seen that efforts to attach only money values to recreation of unique and most special types must generally fail, if the purpose is to show all that will be affected if such recreational resources are impaired or destroyed. Unique and most special type recreational streams are, quite frequently, also fine power streams.

The framers of the Federal Power Act undoubtedly were aware of these conflicting uses when they formulated the statutory guides found in Section 10(a) for the issuance of licenses. Tremendous quantities of falling water—latent electric energy sources—have been and remain unused because their scenic or recreational values have caused them to be placed in a superior position. In our national park system, the Great Falls of the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone National Park is an example of unused water power because of such recreational values. In the eastern part of the United States it is reasonably certain that the fullest possible development of Niagara Falls for electric power will never be permitted as it would involve impairment or destruction of the scenic value of the Falls and water of great power value must continue to go unharnessed . . .

Under consideration of the application filed herein, the evidence of record . . . the Commission finds: . . . The proposed project is not best adapted for beneficial uses of the Namekagon River, including the use of the stream for recreational purposes . . . and the same is hereby denied.

If you have read *Sand County Almanac* (and we presume you have by now), you will want the new Aldo Leopold book—*Round River*—which was reviewed in the Annual (October) SCB. Copies can be obtained at the Sierra Club office for \$3.00 plus sales tax.

Almanac



The issues involved in preserving Dinosaur National Monument and other resources of scenic beauty are not new. They existed, with similar urgency, when the Sierra Club was founded. More than half a century ago John Muir wrote these lines mourning the loss of flower fields he had known.

ONLY THIRTY YEARS AGO, the great Central Valley of California, five hundred miles long and fifty miles wide, was one bed of golden and purple flowers. Now it is ploughed and pastured out of existence, gone forever—scarce a memory of it left in fence corners and along the bluffs of the streams. The gardens of the Sierra, also, and the noble forests in both the reserved and unreserved portions are sadly hacked and trampled, notwithstanding the ruggedness of the topography—all excepting those of the parks guarded by a few soldiers. In the noblest forests of the world, the ground, once divinely beautiful, is desolate and repulsive, like a face ravaged by disease. This is true also of many other Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain valleys and forests. The same fate, sooner or later, is awaiting them all, unless awakening public opinion comes forward to stop it. Even the great deserts in Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico, which offer so little to attract settlers, and which a few years ago pioneers were afraid of, as places of desolation and death, are now taken as pastures at the rate of one or two square miles per cow, and of course their plant treasures are passing away—the delicate abronias, phloxes, gilies, etc. Only a few of the bitter, thorny, unbitable shrubs are left, and the sturdy cactuses that defend themselves with bayonets and spears.

—JOHN MUIR, in *Our National Parks* (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1901).

Along Many Trails

One of the prophets, a brave man and bold, is our friend Weldon Heald. It was in the annual *SCB*, June 1949, that he ventured some long-range predictions concerning Sierra snows. Among other things, he said: "The year 1952 should bring the heaviest season and culminate the maximum, but this might occur in 1951 or 1953."

Snowfall

Well, the
winter of
1951-52

brought a phenomenal snowfall of 788 inches, not only materializing Weldon's maximum for his "Period A," but topping the all-time record in 1879-80 by a cool five inches. When the next season brought 446.7 inches, also in line with his predictions, we hired him then and there, at the usual honorarium, as our staff bell-weather.

Executive Director Dave Brower recently conveyed to Weldon, at his Painted Canyon Ranch, Portal, Arizona, a seasonable plea for a fresh forecast. Here is the reply:

"... I got out all the charts and figures that I worked up in November 1948 for the *SCB* article and brought them up to date. I couldn't help but be somewhat elated to find that everything has gone exactly as it should have in the past five years. Period A performed on the nose, as predicted, and has presumably topped out in 1952, exactly 15 years from the last high of 1937. That ... carries the series back to 1811 with intervals of 15, 15, 15, 12, 15, 13, 14, 15, 12, 15 years. It looks as if it were the key to Sierra snowfall prediction.

"Of course, there is still no known method of hitting any one individual season closely, such as the coming one, 1953-54. I think we can definitely say that in general snows will decline to another low around 1959 or 1960, but any individual season can easily jump out of the general curve ... However, to begin to carry the curve downward properly I wouldn't be surprised to find that this season's snowfall would be between 300 and 350 inches. But of course that is simply what it would be if it

stuck closely to the average curve. In other words, it's in the laps of the snow gods—but I think we are beginning to find out how they work

"In working up the charts, I think I see some new trends as through a pop bottle vaguely One thing may have happened—the over-all general decline since 1895 may have stopped and begun to reverse itself in 1940, but I want to check it this season. ..."

A Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park rescue team was recently granted the Unit Meritorious Service Honor Award of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The occasion for the citation was the heroic effort of the men following an accident which occurred to Bill

Rescue

Crawford and Allen
Brazil of Visalia on
May 20, 1951.

The two men were swept over a waterfall on the North Fork of the Kaweah River while fishing. Crawford, who was editor of the *Visalia Times-Delta*, died as a result of injuries and exposure shortly after medical attention reached him, but Brazil was rescued from a precarious perch on a narrow ledge at the foot of the fall.

Special letters of commendation were sent to Park Rangers Richard H. Boyer and Bruce W. Black, Foreman Thomas J. Adams of the park force, and Dr. Raymond D. Manchester, a physician then of Exeter, Calif. Others named in the unit citation were John Rutter, Henry G. Schmidt, John V. Grunigen, Lee Stiltz, C. M. Johnson, Theodore R. Thompson, Joseph Davis, Charles Wallace, Robert J. Branges, and Jack K. Anderson.

The two rangers and the foreman were commended for their courage in descending in darkness over a vertical 130-foot cliff, and then making an 80-foot traverse along the steep and slippery cliff forming the bank of the stream to reach the narrow ledge on which the injured men were stranded. Dr. Manchester, using ropes for the first time in his life, followed the same route.

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EMBER, 19